

The Town of Barker Almost Entirely Destroyed by Fire—Probable Loss of Life.

Determined Attempts of Firebugs to Destroy the Silver City—The Last Successful Attempt.

A Reward of Five Hundred Dollars Offered by the Council—The Fire at Black Pine.

GREAT FALLS, Sept. 2.—[Special to the Independent.]—News has just been received that Barker was almost totally destroyed by fire yesterday. The fire started in a miner's camp three doors below Zeigler's house, and swept from there up the valley, burning all the eastern portion of the camp. It is supposed that Ellis, his wife, and four children lost their lives. There are also three men missing. Mr. Weibles lost seventy tons of hay, farm tools and considerable loss of stock.

valley, burning all the eastern portion of the camp. It is supposed that Ellis, his wife, and four children lost their lives. There are also three men missing. Mr. Welbles lost seventy tons of hay, farm tools and everything but his household

affected so severely by this fire, is the business center of the entire Barker mining district. It is doubtless the largest town in the southwest of Great Falls. The mineral deposits are on both the east and west sides of the camp. On the west are such mines as the Pride of the West, Silver mine, Barker, etc. On the east, a considerable part of the work of the Barker and West mine. On the northeast side of the camp is another group of silver mines, which includes the May and Edna, the Barker and Barker, and the Greenwood. The Central portion of Barker is the oldest claim. Among these are the Barker, Grey Eagle and Wright and Edwards, which have all been large ore producers. The Barker and Barker camp was on the east side of the creek. Here the first business was done, the stores containing miners' supplies, hard ware, dry goods and liquors. The prospects of the camp are such that the houses will doubt soon be rebuilt.

Incendiary Fires at Butte.  
BUTTE, Sept. 2.—[Special to the Inde-

[Editorial]—Politics are lost sight of here, owing to the interest in the fire situation. The fire department has been successful in its attempts of the firebombs to the city streets. Sunday morning a fire was discovered in a large wooden barn belonging to W. A. Brown, situated in the rear of Caplice hall, on the corner of Park and Main streets. The stable doors were open and the barn had been partly torn out, and a fire set on the floor. It burned slowly and was easily extinguished by the fire department. An attempt to fire the Barnard block, on West Granite street, were also found. Last night at 1 o'clock fire was discovered in H. J. Brown's repair shop and bottling works at South Main street. The building was a two-story frame building and it was entirely destroyed, but by prompt work the flames were kept from spreading to the adjacent building of the Collins Oil Company, which adjoined it. The Collins building, Had this caught fire the whole of South Butte must have been destroyed. The fire loss is \$5,000; insured for \$12,500. It is \$7,500. The fire department firemen predicted the fire and one of them has already been notified to leave town and complied with the invitation. The other denies she has predicted any fires.

Little else is talked of on the streets, and there is an active movement to organ-

more fires will result in the sending

[illegible]

We are still burning brush, but all the buildings at the mill, cordwood, charcoal

supplies are safe. The diamond drill  
used in the repairs, the supplies were  
saved. The shaft burned, but the  
shaft far down. W. A. AXENH,  
superintendent.

At the place the company will sell a  
\$50,000, one-half of which is covered  
by insurance. The damage will be immedi-  
ately repaired and the company will go  
ahead with the operations.

**MR. EATON'S LITTLE PLUM.**

The Gentleman from Park to Succeed Sur-  
veyor General Greene.

DREN PARK, Sept. 22.—To-day (Hear-  
son made two appointments to-day—Geo.  
D. Eaton, M. M. Montana, to be sur-  
veyor general of Montana, and John Little, of Ohio,  
to be commissioner on behalf of the United  
States in the Venezuelan commission.

**Court at Boulder.**

At the court at Boulder, Colorado, [The  
Boulder, Colorado, Independent.]—Court convened here this morn-  
ing, with a fresh sprinkling of the Helena  
case. The campaign will interfere some-  
what with the trial, and the probability is  
that but few civil cases will be

tried at this term of court. The call of the docket was gone through and a few ex-

packet was gone through, and a few capital cases were set for trial. There are seven persons in jail awaiting the action of the grand jury for various offences, mostly all of a trivial nature. The new court house is a credit to the people of the county. Its acoustic properties are excellent, and those present were unanimous in their commendation of the people of Jefferson.

son county for erecting so magnificent a building.

**Turning Out Bullion at Castle.**  
CASTLE, Aug. 31.—[Special to the Independent.]—The smelter has been running about two weeks under contract to the Cumberland company, with Mr. Gordon as the agent.

tion, of the Boston smelter, as superintendent, and is giving the greatest satisfaction.

Fifteen bars of bullion an hour is an average on the ore now being worked, and one hundred and eighty-eight bars are run out in one shift to-day. A richer quality of ore is being taken out of the mine than ever before and there is enough ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> run ninety days.

**Adams Must Furnish Heavy Bail.**  
SPOKANE FALLS, Sept. 2.—[Special to

the Independent.]—Fred Adams, slayer of John Maloney at Colville, had a hearing before Judge Hanford in chambers in this city to-day on a writ of habeas corpus. He was ordered released on \$10,000 bail, and in default of bond to be committed to Spokane county jail until Stevens county can provide a safe place.